

WHAT'S
INSIDE



DUI prevention:
78th ABW kicks it
up a notch

See Page 4A

NEWS
You can use

New changes to
force protection

The following changes have been made to the base's security posture: ID checks at gates will be random, and visitors can be signed onto the installation 72 hours prior to scheduled visits by personally logging guests in at the Main Gate Visitors' Center. Vehicle Registration Stickers will be strictly enforced. If vehicles aren't registered, stickers are outdated or unreadable, report to your unit or Pass and Registration immediately for renewal.

For expanded coverage, see next week's Rev-Up.

– From staff reports

Seeing stars

The U.S. Senate confirmed the promotion of Col. Tom Lynn, 116th Air Control Wing commander, for promotion to brigadier general Feb. 6. The official promotion ceremony will be March 12. President Bush nominated Col. Francis M. Bruno for his first star Tuesday. He is currently director of the Strategic Airlift, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center.



Col. Lynn



Col. Bruno

– From staff reports

ORI countdown:
83 days

The general definitions of each force protection condition are as follows:

Normal - General threat of possible terrorist activity exists but warrants only routine security

Alpha - General threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and installations; nature is unpredictable

Bravo - Applies when increased or more predictable threat activity exist; must be able to be maintained for weeks without undue hardship

Charlie - Applies when an incident occurs or intel indicates terrorist action is imminent

Delta - Applies in area where terrorist attack has occurred or intel indicates attack is likely

ROBINS

RevUp

Vol. 49 No. 7

Friday, February 20, 2004

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Collings assumes command

By Ms. Lanorris Askew
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Nearly 400 friends, family and community members gathered at the Museum of Aviation to watch as the Center's torch of leadership past hands Tuesday.

Accepting the torch, Brig. Gen. Michael A. Collings, who has been nominated by the President Bush for his second star, said he has big shoes to fill, but is honored to succeed the newly promoted Lt. Gen. Don Wetekam once again.

"This is the third time I have followed him, and every time I follow him it's a big challenge," he said. "I hope I'm able to follow through on some of the initiatives he's had, and I hope these initiatives continue to evolve."

The new commander said one of his focuses will be Lean.

"Lean is a great initiative," he said. "Any time you can streamline processes to be able to increase productivity, lower costs and provide more

capability out the door to the war fighter is a winning situation. I would be absolutely fool hearted if I didn't continue to embrace it."

Gen. Gregory S. Martin, Air Force Materiel Command commander, officiated the event and had good things to say about both generals.

Calling General Wetekam a focused, decisive and sensitive leader, Gen. Martin said he's confident that the outstanding mission accomplishments will continue under General Collings.

General Wetekam agreed.

"Mike Collings is the right person to lead this Center," he said. "I know him well, and I know his capabilities well. Robins is in good hands."

The former commander said the day was both happy and sad in that he is leaving a base and community his family has come to love.

"This has been home in every sense of the word," he said.

General Collings thanked

Please see **COLLINGS, 2A**



General Collings

An exercise in readiness



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp

Formerly known as a Major Accident Response Exercise, or MARE, the Full Spectrum Threat Response Exercise, or FSTRE, gave Team Robins a chance to evaluate their processes before the Operational Readiness Inspection in May. For the next week, the Center will continue to test its capabilities through various scenarios like the one above at the base theater Wednesday. **For more on the exercise, turn to page 1B.**

Black Knights
always on the fly

By Ms. Holly J. Logan
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Mrs. Leslie Kanak's husband, Capt. Donovan Kanak, with the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, has been deployed since before Christmas. But that won't stop them from sitting by the tree and celebrating the holiday in style.

"I'm so excited to have him home," she said. "We've missed Christmas and New Year's. I left the tree up so we can open presents when he's ready to."

And they aren't alone.

Tearful hugs and warm welcoming crowds are becoming a routine scene for Black Knights as deployments in support of the global war on terrorism continue.

Seventeen members of the 19th Air Refueling Group returned to Robins Feb. 13, after a 75-day deployment to the Middle East.

Col. Raymond Rottman, 19th ARG commander, said with high operations tempo maintained since operations began, Black Knights have remained at the forefront of war fighter support.

"Whether expediting the delivery of C-5

Please see **KNIGHTS, 2A**



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp

Capt. Donovan Kanak gets a homecoming hug from his wife Leslie. The captain was one of 17 Black Knights to return from a 75-day deployment to the Middle East.

Transfer allows
center commanders
to focus on mission

By Air Force Materiel
Command News Service

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio - Beginning March 1, most Air Force Materiel Command center commanders will no longer serve as installation commander at their respective bases, allowing them to focus more on their acquisition, sustainment, and test and evaluation missions.

AFMC's installation commander job is being passed to each installation's air base wing commander who oversees the day-to-day operations and manages the infrastructure and people who operate the base and support its tenants. According to Gen. Gregory S. Martin,

AFMC commander, this change is being done for two major reasons.

"First, this will allow the center commanders greater opportunities to focus on their primary missions of delivering war-winning technology, acquisition support, sustainment and expeditionary capabilities to the war fighter," said General Martin.

This is especially important to the command's three product centers, Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.; and Air Armament Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., where

Please see **FOCUS, 2A**

Robins
3-day
forecast

Courtesy of 78th
OSS/OSW

Today
Partly to mostly
cloudy


72/50

Saturday
Mostly cloudy
with morning rain
then cloudy


62/45

Sunday
Partly cloudy


66/42

What's
inside

Jumper: Strategic airlift capability 'front burner issue' **2A**
Directorate brings home three AFMC maintenance awards **3A**
Museum workshops let kids experience another world **3B**
Robins explores new options in securing helicopter parts **8B**

Jumper: Strategic airlift capability ‘front burner issue’

By Master Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – The Air Force’s senior officer assured members of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Feb. 10 that maintaining strategic airlift capability is one of the service’s top concerns.

Air Force Chief of Staff

Gen. John P. Jumper met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill for the annual service chief’s posture testimony portion of the 2005 Department of Defense Authorization hearings.

Besides acquiring more C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, General Jumper told the committee Air Force officials are studying airlift requirements and looking into upgrading

the C-5 Galaxy fleet.

The current mobility requirement is 54.5 ton-miles per day, General Jumper said. The new study, due for completion in June 2005, will determine if that figure is still valid in today’s contingency-filled world.

“In order to get to that number, we are on the track to get (more) C-17s, plus re-engine and re-engineer C-

5s,” he said. “Part of our work with the C-5s is to see how many ... are capable of being modified -- do they have the service life left, have they been overworked, etc.”

The general’s comments were in response to Missouri Sen. James Talent’s concern over the Defense Department’s decision to contract foreign aircraft to

help meet America’s airlift needs.

“I find it troubling that 125 times over the last three years, DOD has contracted with the Russians to use AN-124 aircraft ... because we simply don’t have enough of our own,” Senator Talent said.

General Jumper said the study’s goal is to find the right combination of C-17s

and modified C-5s to meet the nation’s strategic airlift requirement.

“The work is ongoing. It’s on the front burner,” he said. “The global mobility forces that are out there working every day are indeed the key to our ability to reach out around the world ... I can assure you this is an area of concern for us and we’re going to keep pushing.”



U.S. Air Force photos by Ms. Sue Sapp

Brig. Gen. Michael Collings and his wife Jan leave the change of command ceremony Tuesday.

COLLINGS

Continued from 1A

the AFMC commander for his confidence, and said he will give 110 percent in his new role.

“What I’m chartered to do is to provide leadership to this organization,” he said. “To accomplish what our nation has asked us to do as an air logistics center and that’s to provide world class combat capability and sustainability to our forces.”

He said a very important part of that leadership is people.

“People in my view are the cornerstone to everything,” he said. “Most important as commander is taking care of your most precious asset, and without any question, that is people. Put your people before everything else, and the people will take care of the mission.”

With experience as both an operator and logistician, General Collings is well aware of the Center’s mission.

“Over the past year, Air Combat Command has had the highest mission capable rate of its combat platform aircraft - bombers fighters and special mission aircraft - in seven years. And Robins had a big play in providing those great sustainable war capable aircraft to the combatant commander through the war fighter,” he said.



Gen. Gregory S. Martin and Mrs. Sheri Wetekam pin on General Wetekam’s third star before the change of command ceremony.

More to know

Former Center commander Lt. Gen. Don Wetekam also received the Distinguished Service Medal. During the ceremony the Center was presented the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award for its role in support of the war on terrorism.

“It’s very important as a fighter pilot to be able to put your foot on the ladder knowing that aircraft is airworthy and able to do the mission right the first time.”

KNIGHTS

Continued from 1A

strategic airlift to the war fighter or providing vital aerial refueling to the full spectrum of coalition aircraft, the 19th ARG is out front in the Global War on Terrorism,” he said.

The commander said the group keeps its skills honed so readiness is never in question.

“Our command leadership keeps visibility on our (operations) tempo, both deployed and at home,” he said. “In doing so, they are able to ensure we have ample time and opportunities to accomplish our training requirements, ensuring the Black Knights remain poised and ready for any eventuality.”

Mrs. Kanak said her faith helps pull her through the deployment cycle.

“You just trust that they’re well-trained and pray that they make it back safely,” she said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Sue Sapp

Lt. Col. Mark Narron gives a thumbs up as 17 members of the 19th deploy Feb. 9.

What to know

Seventeen Black Knights returned home from a 75-day deployment to the Middle East, Feb. 13. The 19th Air Refueling Group has deployed 869 troops on a 45 to 120-day rotation schedule since 9-11.

FOCUS

Continued from 1A

the center commanders are now also program executive officers for the Air Force’s aircraft, C2 and armament acquisition programs, respectively.

“Second, AFMC’s organizational structure will now look more like those of other Air Force major commands where a wing commander is the installation commander,” he said. “This will make AFMC look more familiar to our war fighter customers, thus making it easier to do business with our command. It will also give our wing commanders the full experiences they need to continue to grow into Air Force senior leaders.”



General Martin

“This will make AFMC look more familiar to our war fighter customers ... It will also give our wing commanders the full experiences they need to continue to grow into Air Force senior leaders.”

Gen. Gregory S. Martin AFMC commander

To give wing commanders the right tools and people they need to exercise their responsibilities, some functions and offices will move from the center commander’s staff to the wing. For example, some elements of several offices, including legal, financial and procurement, will realign to the wings. Also, there will be command chief master sergeant positions at both the centers and wings.

“What we have now is a structure that doesn’t provide our air base wing commanders the authority and resources to fully support the people and organizations on their bases,” General Martin said.

He said there are some

functions now being carried out at the centers that are actually wing-level in nature and will better serve the installation by being placed under the wing commander’s authority.

While the new command structure will stand up March 1, each center and wing will work with AFMC headquarters to iron out the steps needed to complete all of the organizational restructure and physical relocations by October 2004.

Command officials emphasized that while some jobs will move from centers to wings, they do not anticipate any positions being eliminated as part of the realignment.

Directorate brings home three AFMC maintenance awards

By Ms. Lisa Mathews
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The Center’s Maintenance Directorate has netted three Air Force Materiel Command maintenance awards for the third quarter of fiscal 2003.

Among them, Ms. Stephanie Austin was named outstanding depot maintenance member; Mr. Chad Cagle was named outstanding wage grade maintenance member; and the C-5 maintenance management team in the aircraft division garnered recognition as AFMC’s outstanding depot maintenance management team.

Both Ms. Austin and Mr. Cagle work in the commodities and industrial products division, or MAN. C-5 maintenance management team members include Mr. Willie Bowman, Ms. Sherry Bridges, Mr. Robert Collins, retired Col. Ed Connolly, Mr. David Mann, Mr. Ed Montano and Mr. Steve Tomblin.

“I am extremely proud of the recognition of outstanding performance by the two individuals and the C-5 team from MA,” said Mr. Jim Culpepper, MA director.

Ms. Austin led her composite repair team of 200-plus mechanics in war fighter support and was vital to her section receiving International Organization for Standardization registration in metal bond and composite repair.

Her section works more than 70 different assets and

produces 400,000 earned hours annually in support of the C-5, C-141, C-130, C-17 and F-15 aircraft and the H-2 helicopter. Under her leadership, the team decreased flow days, reduced cost and improved on-time delivery.

“Winning this award is a tremendous honor for me,” she said. “I greatly appreciate the opportunities I’ve been given in the positions that I’ve held and the support I’ve received over the years. I enjoy what I do and hope to do it for many more years.”

A former co-op student, Mr. Cagle began working in the wing shop of MAN in 1999.

“He’s one of our top-notch mechanics,” said his supervisor, Mr. Frank Valasky. “He’s very dependable. To my knowledge there is probably nothing he can’t do. But, if he ran into something he couldn’t do, he knows where to go to get the paperwork done to get the job done.”

Through his efforts, the wing section produced 67 wings on an average of seven days early with zero late from

July 1 until the end of the quarter.

“I take my job seriously,” Mr. Cagle said. “I don’t come out here to make eight-hours-a-day, and 40-hours-a-week. I actually come out here and think about the person who’s going to fly that plane.”

Mr. Cagle quoted his grandfather by saying, “‘When you die you can’t leave anything behind but the memory of who you were.’ If, God forbid, I leave here today and get in a car accident, at least I’ll know the people here said I came in here and did my job every day.”

Accolades for the success of the C-5 Production Branch haven’t been rare this year, and this latest award reflects on everyone in the C-5 branch, according to Mr. Mann.

“I’ve been on this airframe for more than 20 years and there have been a lot of struggles during that time,” he said. “It really feels good to be part of a winning team.”

Those sentiments were echoed by Mr. Tomblin, deputy chief of the branch.

“The C-5 program, in the last year, has come around and made significant improvements,” he said. “The reason for that is the team approach from everybody that works in C-5s.”

The team won the award by exceeding all measured production goals and greatly improving combat capability, producing 23 C-5s to Air Mobility Command for joint and national strategic airlift. In past years, previous teams were never able to produce more than 17 C-5s in any fiscal year.

The team’s efforts also led to a 45 percent decrease in downtime for acceptance inspections and an average decrease in flow days from 340 to less than 230. The team produced more than 100 percent of budgeted hours, bringing the net operating results into the black for the first time in C-5 PDM history.



Ms. Austin



Mr. Cagle



Mr. Bowman



Ms. Bridges



Mr. Collins



Col. Connolly



Mr. Mann



Mr. Montano



Mr. Tomblin

SF message to drinkers: Don't drive

By Mrs. Chris Zdrakas
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Robins Air Force Base has shifted into high gear to prevent drinking and driving arrests, adopting a zero tolerance policy, an incentive for teamwork leading to no DUIs and putting up signs to keep the message in drivers' minds as they leave the base.

More police checkpoints are next.

The initiatives are designed to reverse a DUI trend across the base, said Chief Master Sergeant Sam Mitchell, superintendent of the 78th Air Base Wing.

According to 78th Security Forces Squadron statistics, there were 63 drinking and driving arrests among the Robins' military community last year. Most were the result of off-base incidents.



Chief Mitchell

In January, Robins had six drinking and driving arrests, compared to three in January 2003.

"One DUI arrest is one too many," Chief Mitchell said. "We recognize that there is a problem, and we know that it can be solved."

In a policy letter to members of the 78th Air Base Wing, Col. Tom Smoot, 78th Air Base Wing commander, called drinking and driving "an irresponsible act that adversely affects military careers, undermines unit morale and discipline and costs innocent lives."

"Zero tolerance is my policy for DUI offenders who commit these irresponsible acts, either on or off the base," he said. "Those who ignore this policy and show such disregard for career, morale, discipline and the lives of others will be dealt with appropriately and swiftly."

He asked commanders, officers and enlisted leaders to join in spreading the policy message and in increasing awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving. In addition, Colonel Smoot announced a reward program - a time-off day - to wing units whose efforts result in a zero DUI rate each 100 consecutive day period.

Other major organization commanders on base plan to follow suit with similar policies.

Signs with the message "Arrive Alive...Don't Drink and Drive" have been erected at Gates 1, 2, 5 and 14.

According to Chief Mitchell, the bottom line is that base leaders and security forces are serious about cutting down on the trend.

"Commanders and supervisors at all levels are working hard to develop and implement education and prevention programs," he said. "But, the overall responsibility - and ultimately the repercussions - lies with the individual who makes the choice to drink and drive."

Who to call

Airmen Against Drunk Drivers is a 24-hour-service that provides rides to those who have consumed alcohol and need transportation home. The program is run by volunteers from across base, and those who use the service aren't subject to adverse action. To request a ride, call: 335-5218, 335-5238 and 335-5236.

DUI checkpoints

Security Forces teamed up Jan. 23 with the Office of Special Investigations, Warner Robins Police Department and Houston County Sheriff's Department to form a DUI checkpoint at Robins' main gate. More checkpoints are planned in 2004.

Police checked for license, registration, insurance and signs of drinking drivers in both inbound and outbound lanes. There were no DUIs, but police issued 42 citations for no insurance, 19 for no registration and one for operating a vehicle without headlights. One person was turned over to the Houston County Sheriff's Department for driving on a suspended license.

Bad move ...



U.S. Air Force photo illustration by Ms. Sue Sapp

In an effort to curb a drinking and driving trend that includes people of all ranks, Robins has put up signs at Gates 1, 2, 5 and 14 reminding people not to drink and drive. According to 78th Security Forces Squadron statistics, there were 63 drinking and driving arrests among the Robins' military community last year. Most were the result of off-base incidents.

Robins DUI tracker

February: 3 February 2003: 6 Year to date: 9 2003: 63 Number of days since last DUI: 3 (Sunday at 2:29 a.m.)

DUI puts ex-cop on other side of the law

By Mrs. Chris Zdrakas
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Handcuffed and scared, the 23-year-old senior airman rode in the back seat of a Warner Robins Police Department squad car, enveloped in darkness and playing over in his mind the night that abruptly changed his life.

Veterans' Day 2003 was a nightmare of bad decisions, reckless behavior and an accident. It was the night he drank, drove, got caught and crashed his truck into a stopped car at a red light.

The airman, who talked about his arrest on the condition of anonymity, was charged with driving under the influence, the start of a continuing, biting nightmare he said haunts him every day. He stepped forward to tell his story in the hopes of helping someone. He was in a Security Forces squadron before his assignment to Robins.

"If I reach one person, retelling that night will have been worth the effort," he said.

Home alone watching television Nov. 11, he drank three six-ounce drinks laced with vodka before taking off in his nearly new truck for a friend's home about 10 minutes away. He had eaten a steak and cheese sub sandwich earlier that evening.

"I have never been a heavy drinker," he said. "I thought I was OK."

The circumstances of the accident are not clear in his mind, but he recalls being on Russell Parkway for about five minutes when he ran into the back of a Lexus sedan at a red-light. His airbag deployed, striking him with a force he said left him disoriented. No one in either vehicle was seriously injured. Both

"I used to see people like that and think 'man, this has to (be rough).' Now I am one of those people - I have to wake up and look at myself in the mirror. I did the crime, and I deserve the punishment. Living with it isn't easy ... I'll know better in the future."

truck and car were heavily damaged.

He and the other driver pulled off Russell Parkway into an adjoining parking lot, and he went in search of a pay phone. Meanwhile, the friend he had been planning to visit, concerned he hadn't arrived, went looking for him and came upon the accident scene.

She called the police.

Police apparently smelled the alcohol, which was later confirmed in sobriety tests at the police station. Police charged him with DUI, and he called his first sergeant to drive him home. It was about 3 a.m.

"I was once again in the back seat of a car seeing my whole life flash in front of me. I was thinking 'my life is over.' I was mad and very disappointed at myself," he said.

His first sergeant told him he would pick him up at 7 a.m. for an appointment with his commander.

"I was still hazy. He could have told me anything, and I would have agreed to it. I took a shower, but I slept very little," he said.

Before the events of the night unfolded, he had his alarm set so that he would get to work his usual time, 9 a.m. At 7, his

phone started ringing, but still in a dazed sleep, he didn't answer. An hour later, three of his supervisors were knocking on his door.

"They were mad," he said. "I began to put on my camouflage, but they said they wanted me in blues because I was going to see the commander."

He stood at attention for five or ten minutes as the commander gave him what he described as a "good scolding." Then she sent him back to work, telling him he would not be getting a day off.

"It seemed like the longest day of my life," he said. "I was tired, I had a headache and I was filled with remorse."

Later that day, he made a call he dreaded - to his parents. He said his parents had been "pretty strict" while he was growing up, insisting on good grades. He earned As and Bs in school, enlisting in the Air Force right after high school graduation. He said because his family didn't have the money to send him to college, he chose the Air Force to better himself and one day, to be able to afford college on his own.

He had been in the Air Force more than five years and was a senior airman when he was charged with DUI. Because of the charge, he was demoted to

airman first class, received a letter of reprimand, an unfavorable information file and an Article 15 non-judicial punishment for tardiness (for the day after his arrest). He also lost his base driving privileges for a year, was disqualified from testing for staff sergeant and directed to attend ADAPT - Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment - on base.

That wasn't the end of his nightmare. In Warner Robins Municipal Court, a judge fined him \$1,400. Retaining a lawyer cost him another \$500. His parents helped him pay the initial costs, and he is paying his debt off in \$160-a-month installments. The added expense and a \$300 monthly decrease in Air Force pay meant he found himself doing without some things to which he had grown accustomed - cable television, telephone, dinners out with his wife.

"Now it's just survival," he said.

His wife, who is also in the Air Force, drives him to and from work, and he relies on co-workers and others to get him to medical and other necessary appointments.

"I used to see people like that and think 'man, this has to (be rough),' " he said. "Now I am one of those people - I have to wake up and look at myself in the mirror. I did the crime, and I deserve the punishment. Living with it isn't easy. The only good thing is that I got the dumb stuff out of the way. I'll know better in the future."

He said his advice to others is this: Be responsible, don't drink alone. Plan ahead, and if you are going to drink, have a designated driver.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Officers' Hail and Farewell ceremony

There will be an Officers' Hail and Farewell ceremony today at 4 p.m. in the Officers' Club ballroom. For more information, contact Capt. Jeff Styers, WRALC/LF, at 926-3873, or e-mail him at jeffrey.styers@robins.af.mil.

Atlanta Braves tickets

Atlanta Braves tickets for the April 16 game against the Florida Marlins are on sale

through Monday at Robins Elementary School from 8:05-8:30 a.m. The school chorus will be singing the national anthem. Chartered bus tickets from Robins will also be available. For more information, call 926-5003.

ASMC luncheon

The American Society of Military Comptrollers Middle Georgia Chapter February awards luncheon will be Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the

Officers' Club. Tickets are \$7 for members, \$8 for non-members and free for award winners. Please R.S.V.P. with a ticket seller: Ms. Kathy Piper at 327-1410, Ms. Amy Galeazzo at 472-0381 or Ms. Betty Enge at 926-5485.

Engineering,technical management awards

This year's Engineering and Technical Management awards presentation banquet will be Wednesday, at the

Officers' Club. The theme is "Teaming for Success." For tickets, contact Ms. Sara Smelt at 926-6451 or Airman 1st Class Michelle Woods at 926-4489.

Robins Technology Show cancelled

The annual Robins Technology Show, originally scheduled for Thursday, has been cancelled. For more information or questions, call 1 (888) 282-2262, e-mail

info@atc-expo.com or visit www.atc-expo.com/shows

78th ABW Enlisted Promotion ceremony

The 78th Air Base Wing Enlisted Promotion ceremony, hosted by Col. Tom Smoot, 78th Air Base Wing commander, will be March 4, 3:30 p.m., at the Base Theater. Those being recognized will be notified by their respective first sergeants. Commanders, supervisors, family members

and friends are encouraged to attend. Show your unit's pride and spirit; come and join us in congratulating our new promotees. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Editha S. Garcia or Staff Sgt. Jessica Jackson at 926-0792.

Museum art exhibit

The Museum of Aviation is featuring Georgia artist Mr. Marc Stewart's exhibit, A Celebration of Heroes, through March 12.

Shootin’ from the lip: I don’t know, but I’ll find out

By Mr. Geoff Janes
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If you’ve got kids, you’ve heard it before. Without a doubt I have; my son first and then my daughter have asked it all.

And I’ve never minded, but as much as I would have liked to, I haven’t always had the answers.

“Dad, why is the sky blue? Why does it rain so much? Why do I have to go to bed; it’s only 11 o’clock? Why is mom mad at you?”

And I’ve given a string of answers ranging from carefully-calculated guesses to the cold, hard facts as I know them.

But, if I guessed, I always followed up. And, again, if you’re a parent, you’ve probably been there.



Mr. Janes

You’ve given the - sort of - answers as well.

“‘Cause God made it that way; so the flowers and grass can grow; because I said so, and because I didn’t clean out the garage for the 14th weekend in a row.”

They aren’t always logical, and they’re not always the answers my kids are looking for. But I’m always as honest as I can be.

Sure, it’d be easy to just throw something out there, but as an old boss of mine used to say, “If you don’t know, please, please, please just say you don’t know. It’s OK to say you’ll get back to someone. Remember, apologies and delays are easy; pride can be a bitter pill.”

Anyway, I’ve always figured as a dad, it’s my job to know, to have the answers for my kids.

So, I’ve always tried to be honest, and when I didn’t have the answer, I did what all parents do - I made something up.

No, seriously, I’ve always done

what I thought they would understand, I told them I didn’t know, but I would try to find the answer, and when I had it, I’d get back to them.

And if it meant three hours on the Internet, five phone calls, another trip to the zoo, or whatever - I got the information.

Not always because I wanted to, not because I had to or because I felt guilty about not knowing in the first place, but because I said I would.

And even in today’s society, with its microwave dinners, instant communication via the Internet and whatever the heck a “hustle and bustle” atmosphere is, a person’s word means something.

It always has to my dad. It always has to me and my real friends, and if I’m doing it right, it will to my kids.

Today, they say things like, “Dad said he’d find out, so we’ll ask him tomorrow.” It works.

So, what does that have to do

“Good leaders don’t give a half-hearted, politically correct answer. They don’t throw something out without doing their homework because it’s easy and they think they’ll save face.”

with anything you may ask? Well, it has as much to do with running a section, directorate, squadron or wing as it has to do with being a friend or parent.

Good leaders don’t give a half-hearted, politically correct answer. They don’t throw something out without doing their homework because it’s easy and they think they’ll save face.

A real leader says “I don’t know,

but as soon as I have that answer, I’ll get back to you.”

And then, believe it or not, they follow through. They get it.

No excuses, no bull - just straight shooting.

Supervisors want answers; subordinates want answers; children want answers. And you don’t do anyone any favors by buying time with excuses.

So to my daughter Haley who asked me just yesterday on the way home if box turtles can swim, I just have to say that according to Melissa Kaplan’s Herp Care Collection at <http://www.anapsid.org/box.html>, “Box turtles require plenty of fresh shallow water (one quarter to one third their shell height); while they are not as adept at swimming and diving as the water turtles, they can paddle around.”

So, yes, honey they can swim.

I just wish all the answers were that easy.

Integrity, service before self and excellence endure winds of change

By Chief Master Sgt. Randy Auld
14th Flying Training Wing
command chief master sergeant

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. – As I awoke this morning, I reflected on all the changes that are happening in the Air Force.

Key initiatives such as transformation and force development are examples of ideas that demand a new way of thinking to get our jobs done faster, cheaper and more efficiently, while creating a new vision for developing our most valuable resource – our people – for

success in the future.

The changes aren’t just limited to how we develop our people or the thought process for performing our jobs.

We are also evaluating our utility uniform requirements and are currently conducting a wear test of the proposed replacement.

Naturally, when you consider upcoming changes, it certainly causes you to look at the effects of the past.

Over the past 26 years, I have had the opportunity to “transform” from the type-writer to computer automation.

Uniforms have changed as

well, moving from blue stripes on cotton fatigues to subdued stripes on permanent press battle dress uniforms.

The new service dress was a controversial change, replacing the older “Combo 1” style adopted from the Army days.

Let’s not forget about name tags, either, from the sewn on version in blue and white to subdued then to the aircrew style name tags and back again to subdued.

Technology and uniforms aren’t the only changes the Air Force has made over the years.

The Berlin Wall is down

and the Cold War is over. We have moved from a predominantly home-based force posture, both stateside and overseas, to a more dynamic, quick-reaction force designed to deploy on a moment’s notice anytime, anywhere.

Our smaller, focused air and space expeditionary forces remain challenged as they never have been before.

Winds of change? Or are they? When looking back, and then forward, you quickly realize changes are only skin deep.

Although we operate with different weapons systems and procedures, and we dress

differently, our core foundation has not changed.

Even before our Air Force formally established its core values – integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do – we strived to instill those values in our people.

If you have doubts, ask a World War II veteran or those who sacrificed so much during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Desert Shield and Desert Storm demanded no less.

Today, the global war on terrorism again proves our sincere commitment to our core values.

Yes, the way we look and

act on the outside may have changed, but not our internal drive and dedication to duty, honor and country – three precepts that sustain the devotion to our core values.

Yes, winds of change are here. However, as history documents, the United States of America and its men and women in uniform will continue supporting freedom.

When you think about all the changes coming down the road, remember duty, honor and country.

Press on with pride knowing that integrity, service before self and excellence is what we do – and no one in the world does it better.

Commander’s Action Line

Col. Tom Smoot
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil.

Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Security Forces.....	327-3445
Services Division.....	926-5491
EEO Office.....	926-2131
Employee Relations.....	926-5802
Military Pay.....	926-3777
IDEA.....	926-2536
Base hospital.....	327-7850
Civil engineering.....	926-5657
Public Affairs.....	926-2137
Safety Office.....	926-6271
Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline.....	926-2393
Housing Office.....	926-3776

Thanks to the BX staff

I would like to say how pleased I am with shopping at the Base Exchange. I find great savings on name brand clothing comparing to the retail stores off base. I visit often in order to select from new arrivals. The sales associates are always so helpful and courteous. I enjoy shopping at my BX. I know the monies will go back to the community. Whatever I’m looking for – I look at the BX first. I have also run into contractors during lunch hour that didn’t know the food court is open for them. It would be nice if you could get the word out to them.

Commander replies: Thank you for your letter regarding the high quality of service you received at the Base Exchange and facilities. On behalf of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, we take pride in all our associates and the level of service they provide to our customers. We’re always pleased to hear about our good customer service and the quality and pricing of our clothing. We will forward your suggestion regarding Food Court privileges through the appropriate channels. We strive to be a valued benefit to our customers and the military community. One of our many missions is to generate reasonable earnings to supplement appropriated funds for the support of Army and Air Force Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. We’re always pleased to hear from our customers and rely on you as a customer to bring your comments to our attention so that we can take the appropriate action and promote the high level of service you deserve.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to comment.

Fix the lights in racquetball court No. 3

The lights in racquetball court No. 3 at the new base gym have been inoperable now for more than 10 weeks. I use the gym an average of four times per week. I play racquetball each Tuesday and Thursday. I check with key gym personnel each day for a status on getting the lights fixed. The answer is always the same: no one from Civil Engineering has come to the gym.

Commander replies: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. You are correct that the lights on this court have not worked for an extended period. The circuit and controls feeding it were rendered inoperable as a result of a lightning strike. Our civil engineers responded shortly after the fact; however they had difficulty trouble-shooting the problem because they couldn’t access the light fixtures (the courts have a relatively small access door through which to get the lifts and staging required to reach the high ceiling). Upon further review, electrical relays within the control panel were replaced and the lights are now functioning properly. Again, thank you for your concern regarding our world-class gym facility.

Camera cell phones are a security risk

I see a lot of the new cell phones with the instant picture

feature on base. With us in a war situation I would think this might be a way that terrorists could get their hands on information that is sensitive. I have asked around, and there is no rule about these phones since it is new technology.

Commander replies: Technology today is moving at the speed of light, and we are trying to keep up with the pace. The Air Force Certified TEMPEST Technical Authority discussed this issue with National Security Agency representatives at a recent meeting. The NSA advises new cellular phones with integral digital cameras pose an unacceptable security risk as determined by the Office of Homeland Security. An individual is not authorized to use or to be in possession of this type of phone within any Air Force facility processing classified information without written authorization from the Designated Approval Authority. The following information supplements AFMAN 33-214, Volume 2, paragraph 3.4.4. “Special Items Cellular Telephones” and provides guidance to prohibit cell phones with integral digital camera capability in facilities processing classified information. Individuals in possession of these cellular phones upon entry to Air Force facilities will be denied access to classified facilities. Anyone found in possession of this type of cellular phone while inside or upon exiting classified Air Force facilities will have the phone confiscated and delivered to the Security Forces for disposition. More information is available on the AFCA secure Web site. Use the Information & Services drop down and click on EMSEC. If you have any other questions please contact your security manager.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. News copy, photographs and art work should be sent to the Office of Public Affairs, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. 31098-1662, phone (478) 926-2137, no later than 4 p.m. four days before the publication date for that week. All news copy must be submitted on a diskette in a Microsoft Word format. The Rev-Up is published on Fridays, except when a holiday occurs during the middle or latter portions of the week. For advertising information, write: P.O. Box 6129, Warner Robins, Ga. 31095-6129, or phone the advertising department at (478) 923-6432.

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Chiefs induction ceremony and dinner set for Feb. 28

Acquiring the final enlisted stripe is no small feat. Recent statistics indicate that only one of every 100 personnel who begin basic military training in the Air Force will attain the status of chief master sergeant. This year the Robins Chiefs’ Group will induct 16 personnel to this elite rank. The guest speaker will be the 5th chief master sergeant of the Air Force - retired Chief Master Sgt. Robert Gaylor. The 2004 Chief’s Induction

Ceremony and Dinner will be Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. at the Museum of Aviation, Century of Flight Hangar. Cost is \$30 per person. Dress for military members is mess dress or semi-formal uniform. Civilian dress is semi-formal. The 2004 inductees, along with their unit and hometown, are: **Senior Master Sgt. N. Jerome Baker**, 78th CS, Little Rock, Ark. **Senior Master Sgt. Kevin P. Beck**, 116th MXS, Chicago, Ill. **Senior Master Sgt. Suzy**

Clemons, HQ AFRC, Riceville, Tenn. **Senior Master Sgt. Joel Coppolino**, AFRC, Berwyn, Ill. **Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth R. Cox**, 778th CES, Independence, Mo. **Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Dreer**, AFRC, Baltimore, Md. **Senior Master Sgt. Scott Dunford**, AFRC, Bear Lake Valley, Idaho **Chief Master Sgt. Kevin B. Hamilton**, 116th MXS, Glen Burnie, Md.

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin D. Inskeep, 116th MXG, Ashdown, Ark. **Senior Master Sgt. Ron McAtee**, AFRC, Perry, Ga. **Chief Master Sgt. Claude McKenzie**, 94th APS, Ft. Valley, Ga. **Senior Master Sgt. John P. Moffo**, 5th CBCSS, Waterbury, Conn. **Chief Master Sgt. Robert F. Parker Jr.**, 94th APS, Williston, S.C. **Senior Master Sgt. Kevin**

Perkins, WRALC, Skidway Lake, Mich. **Senior Master Sgt. Dan RedCloud**, 78th CES, New York, N.Y. **Chief Master Sgt. Tanya M. Richards**, WRALC, Newark, Ohio **Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Wells**, AFRC, Pompano Beach, Fla. For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Greg Harris at 327-0599.

– From staff reports

ROBINS CLUBS

Aerospace Toastmasters meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Contracting Directorate conference room, Building 300, west wing. For more information, contact Mr. Keith Dierking, 926-0420.

Robins Top 3 Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. For information, call Master Sgt. Joyce Jones at 926-4997 or Master Sgt. Andrea Johnson at 327-7356.

Procurement Toastmasters Club, open to all of Team Robins, meets the first and third Thursday of each month at noon in the Contracting Directorate’s conference room, north end of Building 300. For information, call Ms. Lily Fickler at 926-2855.

Ravens Toastmasters Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Special Operations Forces Management Directorate’s conference room No. 1, Building 300, East Wing, door E-4. For information, call Mr. Eddie Sanford at 926-1185.

Robins’ Voices International Training in Communication Club meets the first Thursday of each month at 11:45 a.m. in the special functions room of the Base Restaurant. For information, call Ms. Evelyn Fountain at 926-7429 or Ms. Nancy Kwiatkowski at 923-1752.

Editor’s Note: Information is provided by club members. To have your club or group’s information included or updated, submit it to Angela Trunzo, associate editor, by e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil or by fax at 926-9597.